

# The Badmin Moor Project

Angus

Personal Diary 7 - 28<sup>th</sup> June 1997.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

left flat at 9.30 am. With a very tight transfer/change in London. 1.05 arrive Kings X, 1.35 depart Paddington. Oh shit! Arrival time is 1.16 according to the conductor. I either misheard the telephone conversation or heard what I wanted to hear or was mis-informed. Whatever, this was an extremely tight connection. After 1 1/2 mins late arriving in KX, arriving 3 mins late at Padd. wasn't a bad effort. Called Badmin, John v. helpful, would leave message for Sue. Arrived in B. Parkway 7.06 after having almost seen 3 coasts, East, West and South, going via Bristol. Waited for possible lift to arrive. Took taxi to site arrived c. 8.30 pm. For an 11 hr journey it wasn't that bad. Met the rest of the team at the intro in the bar. It's gonna be good. Played pool with Chris (FAU), Chris (older) + Mike. Mike's biggest laugh was when I potted the black + white together + lost the game. Funny! This is the disagreeable Mike I had read about in Sue H's '96 diary. Interesting? When I was told by Mike I would be working with him I thought okay lets see what it's all about. Being told I might be sworn at that suited me fine - you know where you stand. I told Mike that's okay as long as you explain what I've done wrong and how to correct/improve mistake(s). He thought this v. reasonable. Could be good.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Great walk over to Lestermick. I wonder whether it may become a drag.

Excellent site tour, some interesting comments. The weather; I have to say I would've been quite happy to walk off site. It was <sup>so</sup> appalling that I could barely hear Sue speaking at the SRT whilst standing next to her. I started work at H23 with Mike after lunch. He ~~was~~ was very good - explaining and showing me exactly what he wanted me to do. He spent a ~~long~~ lot of time explaining the trench and its excavation, how he saw it + that was very helpful.

This is not the disagreeable person I had ~~preconceived~~ <sup>conceived</sup> through Sue's diary.

As my father has always said, "Speak as you find, son." I cleaned

part of the area of trench and

Mike was very encouraging a good start to the ~~new~~ project. Hopefully

my thermals will be on their way soon. ~~It~~ was cold after the initial

rain this morning. I hope <sup>for</sup> some sleep, at least I have sussed the door without a curtain - put a seat upholstery in front of it.

Goodnight.


P.S. Might be interesting to hand out '97 diary without names to '98 people so they are no preconceptions.



Monday 9th June.

A slightly better nights sleep to a. 5.55am.  
 Enjoyed the day in H23 with Mike, Penny and Fay and later Steve and Jan. We missed afternoon break so when Steve + I left we had to pack up all the gear in 28 - bit of a pain - nevermind. Bit of a fudge back to Westmargate, then to Co-op for fruit + veg - yeh! Had to move caravan to no 15, - something we didn't need. It was 7.45 when finished and I was knackered. Then it was showering + cooking. An extremely tiring day.

Tuesday 10th June

Arrived on site.  Walked over to H23 with Fay. Fay sent off by Mike to work with Eric in 39 with an abruptness that left me with a better taste for c lhr. Due to the difficulty of yesterday in trying to find what Mike thought was the 'old land surface' he decided to string up an <sup>area</sup> ~~section~~ of the trench and go down in 2" spits rather than 1/2" as yesterday. So that it was quicker + if missed we might pick it up in the section. This seemed to slow down as I hit more rubble, almost immediately. Between end of lnel + afternoon tea I felt as if I was losing the thread - not being able to find this 'surface'. Mike helped out + although the weather was miserable after tea that was the best session for me

and I finished feeling very positive. Although I'm very 'green', this is realised. It might not be laugh a minute at H23, but I feel I'm getting v. good training. Pity the walk back was foul. Water came through ~~the~~ shoulders of my jacket - I wonder whether they'll replace it - I've had it 17 months. He did some work. Steve + I went to the bar for a pint. First time we've spoken on our own for any period when not on site - very enjoyable. Got back Tony + Don having a joint, funny watching their faces change. In the evenings it's been Tony, Don, Steve + myself with Tony popping over. Time will tell whether the insularity continues. Tony did explain that Mike (Arthur) was observing in a 'traditional' manner. This seems to fit in with the questionnaire full of personal questions thrust upon us/me. I still haven't filled it in - may be ~~tomorrow~~ today Wednesday.



5  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Awake 6.15. Waking by 6.45 - finished yesterday's diary. Nice still day outside - misty, but not the thunderstorms as predicted by Eric - not yet anyway. Perhaps that was just wishful thinking. Well time to get up its 7.15.

Walked up from Westmoorate in the mist. Tony came up to look at our walking patterns. He was disappointed, so my suggestion wasn't such a good idea after all. Bailed out parts of H23 - a bit of fun. Had a look at the survey team's work with their flags. Interesting problem with the scale of their map. I later saw that they had resolved it - sort of. Also helped Wayne with the profile sketch of H21 - a rather rough + ready method using their bizarre floppy ~~strapped~~ floppy strong planning frames. Nice bloke - explains his work well. Brat was a ~~big~~ big boo boo, I'd left the biccies in Penny's car. It'd be interesting to know how many people have written about their biccies in their diaries. Thought about going to Penny's car

weren't even ~~at~~ lunch, but dismissed this as a bit excessive. I ~~justly~~ justly had the piss taken out of me. ~~But~~ The survey team came over to H23 to have a look near the end of the day. Had a look at their plan - my 1<sup>st</sup> real interaction with Chris Tilley. I wonder whether this will develop. Walked back with Sue + Mike to Bowthick (Sp?). It's amazing just ~~behind~~ beside the van there were these large grey stones. Like an American theme park, the dinosaurs should pop up + it would be top.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Another amazing game of 'eye spy' after yesterday's Paint (road markings) and Igneous rock <sup>from Dan</sup>. We had Hills (nobody got it!) and Moss (I got it) from Dan. This evening I decided that Dan should be called Tan - short for Tangential man.

The conversation has some sort of line to it then Dan just whips it away at right angles - you've got to experience it.

I thought about travelling in H23, if the people who lived/visited this place in the past were watching us now what would they be thinking. They'd probably wouldn't recognise us for a start and would think it very bizarre or incomprehensible that these things were scraping away at the dirt in Bob's Bunny Pen ~~and~~ the charcoal fund was part of a twig that little Jimmy had brought home and was thrown into the fire whilst being ~~stuff~~ cuffed round the lug hole for being late for supper.

(the twig was thrown into the fire not Jimmy!)

At the end of afternoon tea I had to go round and pick up cigarette butts - disgusting. I think it's an absolute disgrace that people do this. I have no respect for people who claim to be studying the landscape and its past and have no respect for it now and its future. I told this to Sue in the



ran on the way back having discovered they had been told about this - we'll have to wait & see what happens. Anyway Dan, Steve, Fay and Mike T. agreed so perhaps my rant was justified.

Fay cooked an excellent vegan chilli & I washed my clothes an excellent end to the first week.

I'm also getting the feel of a matrix at H23 ~~instead of that is a good feeling~~. I like working with Mike. [--- bio]

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Wow - I woke up at 9.20 - top sleep. My first one - I got up for a pee or couple of times c 6 am & 7.25, but otherwise straight through. It's 11.40 am and I've had the most relaxing morning - writing my diary, finishing MW's questionnaire. Dan made me beans on toast. He's a very pleasant, kind person. Nice long shower and a thoughtful shave. I'm ready for an afternoon in Tintagel - should be good. I'll let you know later. Noticed Steve needs his own space - he's biting ~~and~~ at the bit to go and Dan, Fay and me are just relaxing.

Had a great day in Tintagel. I spent nearly 2 hrs looking round the castle & the promontory - top. Went up to the church on Gleebe cliff - 1<sup>st</sup> sight through the mist were the headstones in the graveyard - quite eerie. V. peaceful church.

Had a go at Tony for throwing his pasty in the bushes before visiting the castle, a bit off. I think the butts yesterday were still on my mind.

when I saw him later after the castle + church, All was ok. He's a good bloke even if he doesn't seem to stop working. Got back to site + went for swim with Dan + Fay in site pool. We ended up playing water volleyball? with some kids - great fun. It was interesting to note they got cheekier as time went on. Watching the young ones - takes me back. [Re-reading this I sound like a right old - - - .]

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Up at 7.25 bit of a rush. It definitely works making my sarnies the night before. Giving me plenty of time in the morning to pack my rucksack. Went up with Penny in the car - v. quiet this morning someone described it as subdued. I was certainly tired after my day off!

Good day on site. The geomorphologists are fascinating, they get really excited about the rocks - its brill. V. interesting to talk to - got some good notes for my fieldwork notebook. I think I might ask Sue if I can spend 1/2 hr with them, although we've got a lot to do at H23 tomorrow.

Did some levelling with Penny - the Backsight and 28 foresights. Oh shit! I hadn't written down the backsight - Mike didn't go berserk. I sorted it out with Penny. Grib to show the section of a small feature - good



practice. Then the last hour mattocking + shovelling - that knackered me out.

Dan's cooking Linda McCartney Pres, beans + oven chips - if it ever cooks - it can't be that difficult Dan!

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

A great day in H23 trench. Unfortunately due to ~~very~~ poor communication ~~and~~ <sup>did</sup> ~~not~~ not feel as if I had been invited to the drinks on site at the end of the day. Why wasn't it announced at lunch when everyone was there? Much better in my opinion. It is difficult when the working day of the digging + survey teams are different and your back + knees are aching. I had a look at the stones - I felt rather indifferent to them before leaving the site. Steve attempted to explain what it's all about - it sound v. interesting. Tried to sort out making phonecall on site tomorrow re. summer work.


Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Walked from Westmacraete to site via the hill which Blackrock is on - fantastic view - much better than from Lestermick - in my opinion. Not many stones visible above modern day turf is this 'cos land not used by animals + humans mud (as geomorphs have proposed) or that there are not as many stones as Lestermick. I'd build my hse on this hill it has a great view of Rough Tor. Really enjoyed mattocking

in the morning its very relaxing - you don't have to concentrate as ~~not~~ intensely as when you're travelling an area clean. Had to clean area - didn't do it very well - felt v. despondent. Tried again after lunch - the area was getting worse not better. Mike thought that matrix too damp to get it as clean as he had wanted and that I shouldn't try to. Chased 3 bunny holes - v. ~~conscious~~ conscious that this is v. time consuming. We need to get on but Mike knows that we have to excav. properly just in case they are a feature. My back ached like hell when we left site + I trudged back to Westmooate.

She's been copying my ideas.

Ha! Ha! It's only a joke.

Bizarre 

I thought it was fruit cake.

ah! back to bunny holes & mammalian Angus - THERE'S NO ESCAPE!!!


You're not bloody joking there!

She's got far more of her own.

Not only followed around by questionnaires + maps, but bunnies as well.


Wacky writing, but tricky to read.

Veg an Clogs!!

Fay wrote the 

Nice travel skame about the technique.

A bit of a rollercoaster in the trench.

To you like it its a bizarre neolithico 

I believe Brian is much better now - it was his hat you see....

Or it is a very skinny snail.

To bunnies wear glasses then these days?

Only big ones.

Alk yes... if all makes sense.

Bloody hell we're just turned the corner.

See what mean. check out the bone case stuff. Vep! A ROONEY See ya later. BYEEEEE

That's good - have you had a happy day??

A big smiley face. What can you see Angus?



11  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

~~Stood close in the trench.~~ Got back 7.30. Made food making in caravan 15. Fay made a chick pea dish - excellent. I made a veg in tem. sauce type thing - still can't get courgettes right - not v. good. Got to party c. 9.00pm. Really enjoyed it had a good chat with Mike W and SH.

Strange day in the trench - trying to contact Uni. of Northumbria re summer job. Telt as if I was out the trench a lot - trying to contact them. Finally go through c. 3.30 - I've got the work. A great relief I can pay my fees next year. Prob. when I got back to caravan 15 - I couldn't find my wallet anywhere. Made calls to arrange cancellation of cards tomorrow. A day of contrast!

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Looked for my wallet between Westmoorgate and site. Mike W, Eric, Gary + Helen helped - no luck. A bit of a hassle - cancelled my cards. Good that I had some interesting work to do in the trench - cleaning for photos and drawing the section of Penni's feature. Left site early. Went to bar for quick pint with Fay and Steve. Had my 1<sup>st</sup> real chat with Henry - a really nice guy - his proposed PhD work in New Zealand sounds great.

We discussed our physical isolation from the rest of the team on the ~~site~~ caravan park. Next year make sure everyone is together. I feel as if I need to be invited unless there is a reason for calling. Perhaps that's just me.

I perhaps that's the wrong word.

Thursday 19th June.

7.15am it's passing down. 7.45 Hoorah - we're not going to site. It's now 1pm I'm up to date with my diary + notebook. Dan + I have swapped in the van, Me from living area to double bed + Dan to living area. It's an amazing feeling I had such a big grin inside if not on the outside as I was moving. To have my own space I can organise my shit properly now. Fay has written lots of excellent signs for rooms, space + bed area. Dan + I rearranged the pots + pans + the lunch food stuff. It's so much more spacious in here after our very hurried move from caravan 31 last week. The baked potatoes are in the oven and the fine sweetcorn mays in the fridge. The pots smell ~~so~~ yummy. Hopefully we're going to the reconstruction this afternoon. All is well. Pity McDonalds didn't get their wrists slapped a bit more.

It's 8pm. Not long back from the reconstruction. Dan and I ran up to High Rock on Twelve Men's Tor <sup>Meer, Kilmar Tor</sup> (c 390m CD) it is by far the best thing I've seen since arriving in Cornwall. The weathering is fantastic - it can't have weathered all that much in the last 3500 years and I'm sure many people then and since must have had similar feelings. I can just imagine the chief/shaman of the settlement standing on the rock in some event of predomination. Top banana! (Interesting juxtaposition of banana + Bronze Age). The reconstruction is r. interesting although I fancy turf and a lower



angle - there's a lot of roof on that structure and it's not on a gradient like those at Heskernick. The farmer was a star! His comments on living<sup>in</sup> + working in/with the landscape was fascinating + eye opening. He does it all for the right reasons in my opinion - education. Mike T took us to the Hokers - good stuff - what presentation? - bollocks.

Back to the van - v. excited about ideas of roof construction, angle, materials etc. It's brill + there's loads of matters to check out.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

11 am. Woke up c. 9.30 - Boo! It's pissing down on our day off. It would be nice to get off the carevan site. The cricket has just started and we're all (Dan, Fay, Steve) writing diaries or notebooks. Everyone is quite geared up by the visit to the 'round house' yesterday. I'm going to do some more fieldwork notebook.

Had a great day out. Saw David Kemp's installation at Botallack. A fascinating incredibly thought provoking exhib. It brings home what archaeology interpretation + presentation are really all about.

The Hounds of Geeron - a wonderful creation.

An enormous shame // we didn't take longer to look at the beautiful landscape on the Botallack coast + the tin mines.

There's an interesting undergraduate dissertation for someone interested in tin miners interaction with the landscape around their place of great toil. Lots of great written record I'm sure + still some

opportunity for ethnographic study. The natural colours at the Greer Tin Mine installation were both beautiful + calming.

Lanyon Quoit - what a better.

Evening in Cornwall - couple of pints + a chat. Almost received the Slaughtered Lamb effect upon entering the Mosens Arms - we left rather rapidly as they had stopped serving food + the atmosphere was not exactly friendly.

Saturday 21st June.

Summer Solstice - some summers day. I'd hoped to spend the evening on Lesternick then walk back over Brown Willy and Rough Tor. - another time. ~~But~~ I'm not leaving Cornwall before walking Brown Willy + Rough Tor that's for certain.

An extremely hard day in the tough weather on Lesternick. The earth was heavy + lots of bailing was done. We made progress + had quite a laugh doing it. By 4.50 the heavy shower that hit us was enough for me. We left site c. 5.20 and got wet before getting in the van. What a day!

It's 9pm, I'm now showered, shaven, with a full stomach and in the warmth. However, my knees ache like hell and my bed is calling.



Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Woke up, my left wrist ached. I think I must have strained it yesterday whilst travelling the sodden earth. I spent the morning up to tea break feeling rather miserable. (Wet, windy weather) worrying about injuring my wrist more. I had to travel with my right hand - not quite as delicate as travelling with my left. I told Mike after break and felt better knowing that he knew the situation. I spent the rest of the day using mainly my right hand. It's incredible how easily you adapt to emptying a bucket of earth with one hand + a rock.

A very hard day and a long trudge back to Westmooresgate.

A quiet night in 15. I cooked, we ate the t.r. was on. It's 10.30 I'm watching Channel 5 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time - some EPO prog. - not bad, not great. It's time for bed.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

It's 9.35 pm, had a can o' Tartan + 1/2 bottle of red wine - incredible - Spanish red wine has meat in it - I was quite taken aback at this when Gary told me. I thought wine was made with grapes! It's appalling!!!

Today - not v. eventful. Good banter with Dan + Mike T. in 4/23. I'm ready to start backfilling. It feels as if in the last few <sup>days</sup> I haven't learnt much, but just

experienced what it is like to work in v. poor conditions. I haven't backfilled before + look forward to it. I'm not sure about the ethics behind it. I feel a brass ~~plate~~ describing the going on should be placed in the backfills for future understanding when the published reports may not exist. Anyway, '1/2 day of arch. left then backfilling. V. tired, but prob. go to bar for a drink

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

A very relaxed atmosphere in the trench at H2 with final mattocking of certain areas and cleaning for the post excavation photos.

After lunch started backfilling. Don seemed to be trying to turn it into a competition. I'm not interested in competition, but seek to do my best only. That's all you can do after all. We shifted a lot of material in one afternoon - quite impressive - at least that's my opinion.



17 Walked back from Lesternick over Brown Willy and Rough Tor to car park where Mike T picked ~~Ray~~ and me up. It's amazing up there. I think Brown Willy was definitely a place of Shamanistic activity on the high flat rock. - sacrificing of the first born! - perhaps.

Rough Tor has ~~so~~ some amazing weathering on it. Naturally weathered (I think) basin shapes with gullies ~~suggest to me~~ - I wondered whether they were used ~~first~~ for sacrificial purposes or holy waters or something. Possibly another example of the natural being used culturally like the grounders on Lesternick.

The views are amazing. The 'white' "shrine stone" on Lesternick was visible from Brown Willy as was the spoil heap at H23.

Finally I've seen Brown Willy and ~~Rough~~ Tor.

Hopefully tomorrow I'll visit Codd Tor during lunch.

It's 10pm + I'm off to bed shortly.

It's 11.50 went for a beer with ~~Henry~~.

Just finished a few more pages of Bill Bryson and thought I'm very privileged to be working on/in/within a magical landscape. The rain is ~~thudding~~ ~~lightly~~ & sporadic on the Corran roof - I wonder what the weather has in store for us tomorrow.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

I'm writing this on Friday afternoon 5pm. The last few days have been so exhausting.

Wednesday - brilliant system of backfilling with Dan + Mike T. Dan fills the barrows (x2) I push them (uphill!) + dump them + Mike spreads them. ✓ efficient.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June was an unbelievable day. It's the worst weather I've ever worked in for such a long period in a day. Came back to caravan, showered and crashed out.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Helped finish the backfilling of H39, not particularly efficient at times due to number of people working there. Finished shortly after 2pm. I had my last walk over the site this season. Up to the quoit then down to H23 (the turf looks pretty good, if I say so myself). Saw an interesting alignment for the first time. The quoit and the triangular backstone in H23 seem to line up on Coddla Tor! If it's not Coddla then it's the one beyond Coddla. It felt very anti-climactic walking off site to Westmoorgate. I still haven't been up Coddla or hill opposite Buttern. Saw Cist on Buttern a couple of days ago, beautifully constructed.



A bit out of control on Fri. night. A few pints in the pub, then to Barbara + Wayne's caravan for supper + wine. A few more pints in the bar, then vague recollections of conversation in CT + SH's caravan. I told Chris about the cigarette butts. A good or bad idea, I'm not sure, but honest. It's in writing anyway. I'd have to come back next year + work on the excav. + survey ~ we'll see what happens and the coming year brings. Mad rush to get packed Sat. morning after Fay + I had gone to see MGT re soil profiles, I was told we were leaving in 5 mins + I hadn't started packing. Anyway we made the train with 90 secs to spare.

Spent most of the journey to London feeling v. queasy - especially after the cheese + onion paste. It's amazing what you do to your body in the name of fun - dreadful behaviour!

19a)

MW's questions:

- 1) Changing / feelings about / perceptions of / Lesternick (I think)

When I first arrived on site I think I saw it as a hillside covered in hills with some archaeology on it. By the time we were due to leave, I saw it ~~as~~ <sup>in</sup> a more much wider sense having visited Brown Willy, Rough Tor, Bothern Hill etc during the project. The hill seemed more a dome and I felt quite intimate with parts of the site.

- 2) Life in the Bronze Age on Lesternick.

A rather stupid statement. Does anyone really know anything about Britain? But

Without knowing an awful lot (virtually nothing) about Bronze Age Britain I can only tell you my feelings from the site. [I mean I don't know anything about the artifacts associated with Bronze Age culture]. Anyway.

I think that there was probably a lot of interaction with other settlements in the area. Even if the environment was c. 2°C warmer than today, the weather on the project has proved it can be quite bleak unless the weather was considerably different then due to this diff. in temp - I don't know. Perhaps these interactions were religious, economic and social.

I think that they may have used these 'field systems' for crops and or animals.



It seems to me that it was probably quite a hard subsistence living. Alternatively the may never have been occupied and that what ~~we~~ +ve archaeology we have left is from an elaborate ritualistic organisation of structures used by the surrounding settlements. I prefer the settlement alternative.

As for the western and southern settlements perhaps they are contemporaneous and that the area of land that runs up post H28 bounded by two walls is in fact the area of no-persons land defining the territoriality of the two sites. I'm not sure of any of the ideas, but that's what makes it so intriguing. It can only be hoped that the next two seasons of excavation and survey can shed some more light on this fascinating site.